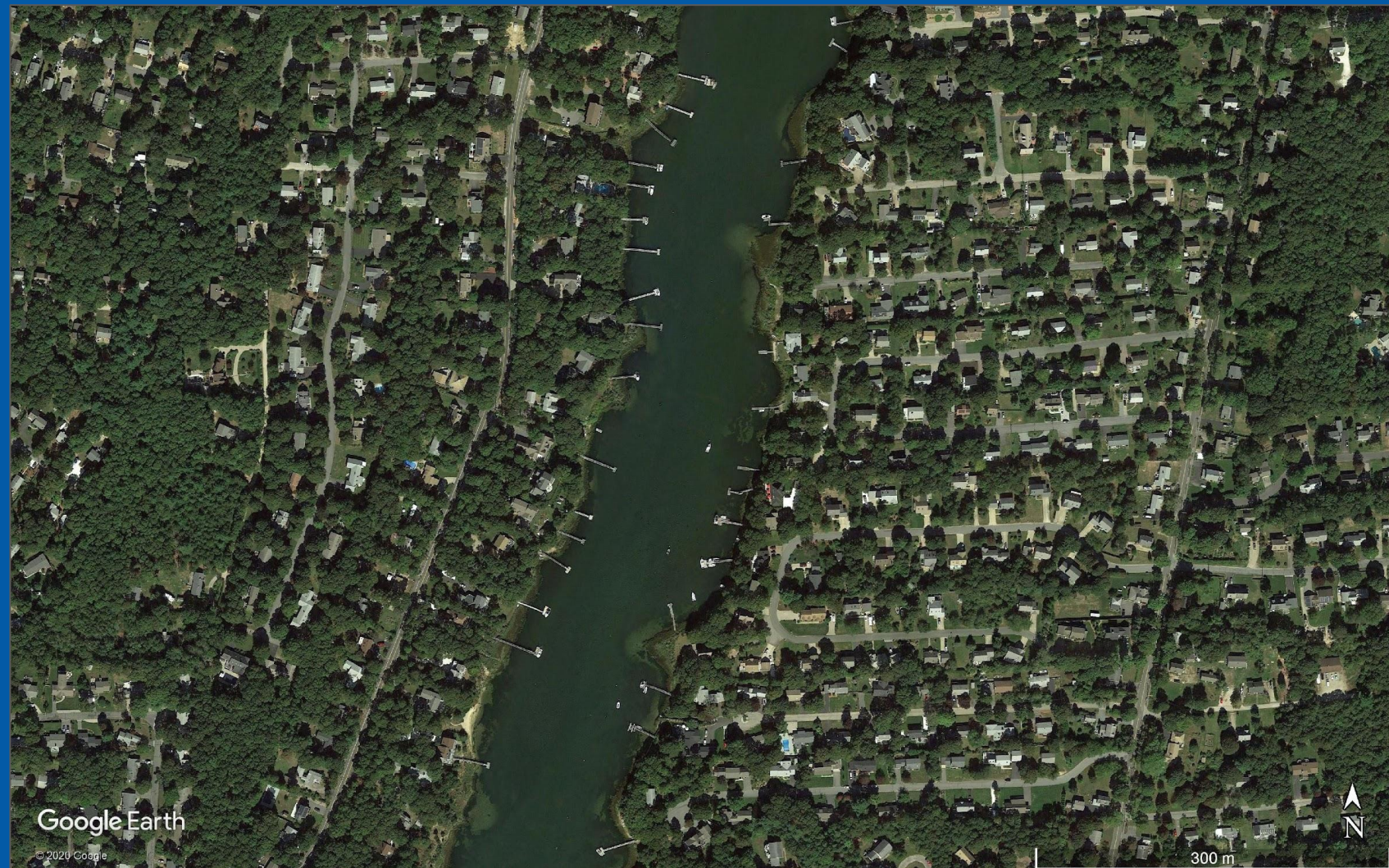


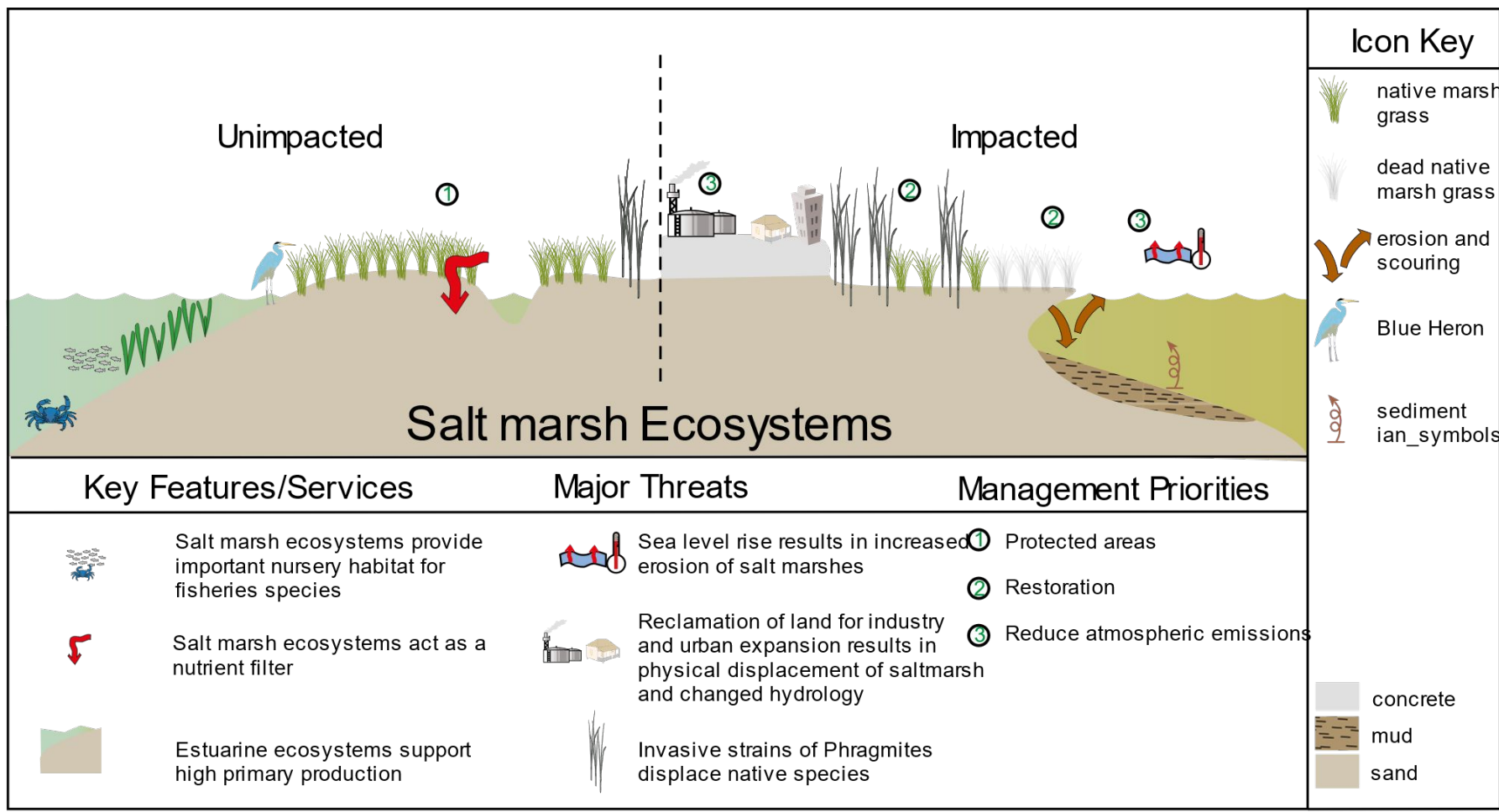
Coastal development threatens salt marsh habitats



Salt marshes are important buffers between land and sea. They provide animal habitat, water filtration, erosion control, and carbon storage.



Salt marshes are vulnerable to impacts from development, sea level rise, and invasive species.



Light is essential to marsh survival, but shading occurs under docks and walkways.



Why it Matters

As population and land development increases, we are losing salt marsh habitats. If designed thoughtfully, coastal development can be less impactful to important salt marsh habitat.

Study 1: How does dock height affect light and vegetation growth?

We installed experimental docks:

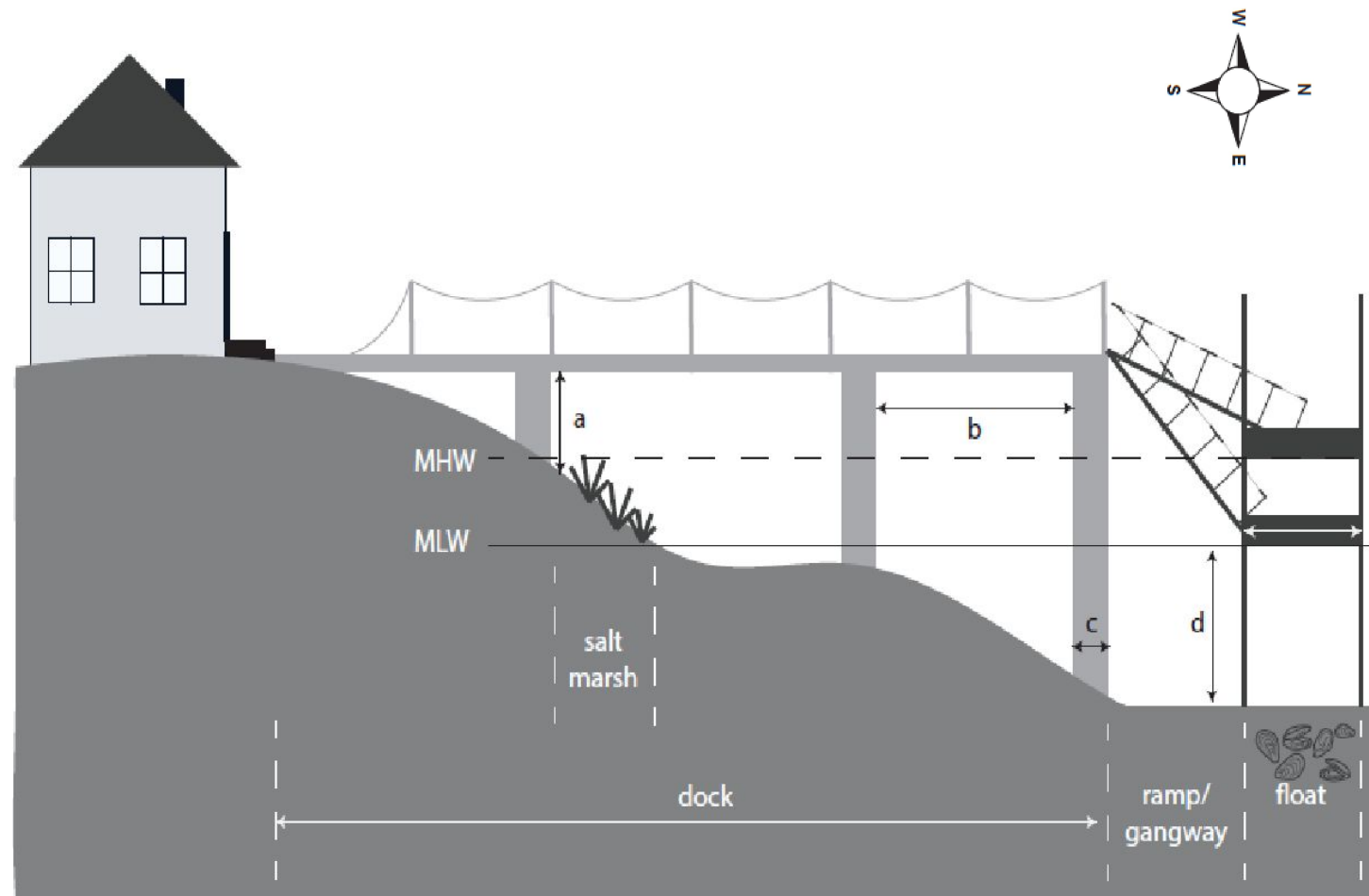


Study 2: Do any existing dock designs allow enough light for vegetation?

We tested differences in:



Dock height and orientation matter! Docks facing North - South, and that are taller than they are wide have fewer impacts on salt marsh.

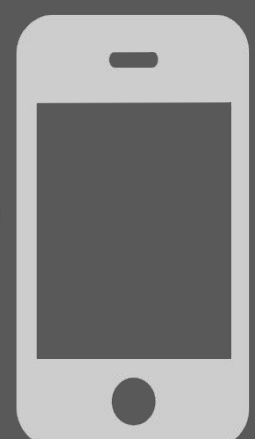


What You Can Do

Do you own a dock? Use our Best Management Practices and other guides to reduce impacts to salt marsh and other aquatic habitats. Scan the QR code below to find them!



John Logan
MA Division of Marine Fisheries



Scan for
resources on
protecting salt
marsh



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